

BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE  
FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION  
STATE OF FLORIDA

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE NO. 09-01  
RE: JUDGE N. JAMES TURNER

**NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES**

To: Honorable N. James Turner  
Osceola County Historical Courthouse  
2 Courthouse Square  
Kissimmee, Florida 34741

You are hereby notified that an Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, by a vote of the majority of its members determined pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, as revised, and Article V, § 12(b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be, and the same are hereby instituted against you to inquire into charges that during your 2008 election campaign for the judgeship you now occupy (the campaign), you engaged in improper conduct in that:

1. During the campaign for the judicial office you now hold, you participated in partisan political activity by campaigning as a member of a partisan political party, including identifying yourself to voters as a member of a partisan political party, in violation of Fla. Stat. §§105.071(1), 105.071(2), 105.071(3) and Canons, 7A(3)(a) and 7A(3)(b) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

2. During the campaign, you participated in partisan political activity by your own actions and by knowingly permitting your campaign workers to simultaneously promote and campaign for your election and the election of another political candidate

as if you were running together on a partisan ticket, including without limitation, doing so in Orlando, Florida on or about October 20, 2008 during early voting and on November 1, 2008 (election day) in violation of Fla. Stat. §§105.071(1), 105.071(2), 105.071(4) and Canons 7A(1)(b), 7A(3)(a), 7A(3)(b) and 7A(3)(c).

3. During the campaign, you participated in partisan political activity by publicly voicing support for a partisan political candidate at a candidate forum you attended in Orange County, Florida on or about May 14, 2008, in violation of Fla. Stat. §§105.071(1), 105.071(4) and Canons 7A(1)(b), 7A(3)(a) and 7A(3)(b) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

4. During the campaign, you engaged in partisan political activity by campaigning on behalf of other partisan political candidates by promoting the attendance of others at a fund raising partisan political event you did not attend on or about September 19, 2009, in violation of Fla. Stat. §§105.071(1), 105.071(4) and Canons 7A(1)(b), 7A(1)(e), 7A(3)(a) and 7A(3)(b) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

5. During the campaign, you personally solicited contributions for your campaign, including without limitation, doing so in writing on or about August 27, 2008, in violation of Canons 7A(3)(a), 7A(3)(b) and 7C(1) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

6. During the campaign, you participated in partisan political activity by purposefully attending partisan political functions where you knew you would be identified as a candidate for judge closely associated with a partisan political party, conduct you knew appeared to suggest your support of that party and its candidates, including without limitation, attending the Orange County Jefferson Jackson Gala on or

about September 14, 2008, a partisan political party fundraiser to which your opponent was not invited, and by attending a partisan political celebration in Orange County, Florida immediately following the primary election to which your opponent was not invited, in violation of Fla. Stat. §§105.071(1), 105.071(2), 105.071(3) and Canons 7A(3)(a), 7A(3)(b) and 7C(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

These acts, if they occurred as alleged, would also impair the confidence of the citizens of this state in the integrity of the judicial system and in you as a judge, would constitute a violation of the cited Florida Statutes and Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct, would constitute conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary, would demonstrate your unfitness to hold the office of judge, and would warrant discipline, including but not limited to your removal from office and/or any other appropriate discipline recommended by the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to the above charges made against you within twenty (20) days of service of this notice upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

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and

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on the Honorable N. James Turner at the Osceola County Historical Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, via Certified Mail # \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2009.

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Brooke Kennerly  
Executive Director  
Judicial Qualifications Commission  
1110 Thomasville Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303